clippings selected and filed; 81 dealers' catalogs checked . . . or our financial records which are maintained very carefully and accurately under the guidance of our auditor and treasurer.

LAST MONTH'S DONORS

Gifts Continue to be Received at Society's Offices

The following is the list of those friends and members, who have made gifts of money to the Society, books and materials to the library or exhibit pieces to the museum. They are being received steadily, and are most welcome!

Lelia Bascom, *Madison, Wisconsin;* Sylvia Bliss, *Plainfield;* P. Clarke Boardman, *South Hero;* Mrs. E. A. Bradley, *Bethel;* Mrs. Cora Preston Bugbee, *Hartford, Vt.;* Frances Hobart, *Statesville, North Carolina;* Hermon D. Hopkins, *Croton Falls, N. Y.;* Elizabeth S. MacDonald, *Wilmington;* Mary E. McKeogh, *Rutland;* Prof. Louis C. Mathewson, *Hanover, N. H.;* Mrs. Mary Greene Nye, *Berlin;* Jennie M. Park, *Des Moines, Iowa;* Mrs. W. J. Plummer, *West Lebanon, N. H.;* Charles D. Stevens, *West Burke;* Mrs. Gertrude S. Wright, *Hanover, N. H.;* Mrs. Blanche Judd Roberts, *Hanover, N. H.;* John Clement, *Rutland;* E. Parmalee Prentice, *New York, N. Y.;* Elizabeth Clement, *Rutland;* Walter B. Mahony, *New York, N. Y.;* Mrs. Ira Rich Kent, *Brookline, Mass.*

THE FIRST MEDICAL COLLEGE IN VERMONT

A Definitive History by Doctor Waite

The medical college at Castleton, Vt., functioned from 1818 to 1862. Dr. Frederick C. Waite, nationally known as a medical historian, has told the story of the college most interestingly in his book, *The First Medical College in Vermont,* published by our Society. $5 postpaid. A few copies of Dr. Waite's *The Story of a Country Medical College* (Woodstock, Vt.) are also available at $4.50. If both volumes are ordered, the price is $7.50. Either volume or both would make a pretty close to ideal Christmas present, we believe, for a physician or anyone interested in any field of medicine.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

We Asked For It

In our last issue we requested some Vermont grandfather clock stories, believing that there are more grandfather clocks in Vermont than in any other state, and this sample came in. If you dislike "punnish" touches to a story, skip this item.

"My father, whose sense of humor often troubled the serious members of his family, bought a grandfather clock. The question was where to put it. In the old home there was a wide landing at the head of the stairs. Mother suggested that it might be placed there. Father shook his head, and said, 'No, it might run down!' No member of the family spoke to him the rest of the day."

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT.
Hon. Leon S. Gay, President; Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director; Mrs. Madelyn Davidson, Editor.

VHS *News and Notes*
Vermont Historical Society
Montpelier, Vermont

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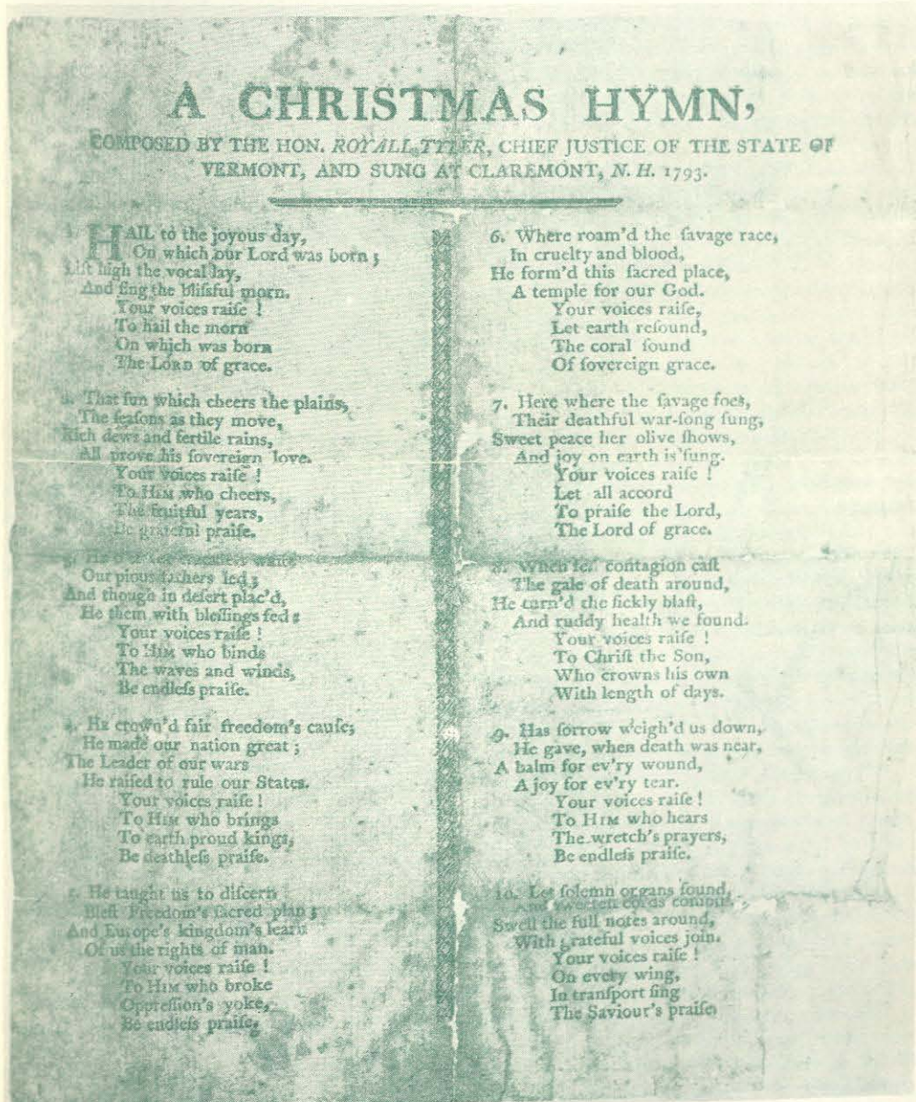
THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT

News & Notes

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Volume 2 December 1950 Number 4



A CHRISTMAS HYMN,

COMPOSED BY THE HON. *ROYALL TYLER*, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, AND SUNG AT CLAREMONT, *N. H.* 1793.

1. HAIL to the joyous day,
On which our Lord was born;
Lift high the vocal lay,
And ſing the bliſsful morn.
Your voices raiſe!
To hail the morn
On which was born
The LORD of grace.

2. That ſun which cheers the plains,
The ſeaſons as they move,
Rich dews and fertile rains,
All prove his ſovereign love.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who cheers,
The fruitful years,
Be grateful praiſe.

3. He [illegible]
Our pious fathers led;
And though in deſert plac'd,
He them with bleſſings fed:
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who binds
The waves and winds,
Be endleſs praiſe.

4. He crown'd fair freedom's cauſe;
He made our nation great;
The Leader of our wars
He raiſed to rule our States.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who brings
To earth proud kings,
Be deathleſs praiſe.

5. He taught us to diſcern
Bleſt Freedom's ſacred plan;
And Europe's kingdom's learn
Of us the rights of man.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who broke
Oppreſſion's yoke,
Be endleſs praiſe.

6. Where roam'd the ſavage race,
In cruelty and blood,
He form'd this ſacred place,
A temple for our God.
Your voices raiſe,
Let earth reſound,
The coral found
Of ſovereign grace.

7. Here where the ſavage foes,
Their deathful war-ſong ſung,
Sweet peace her olive ſhows,
And joy on earth is ſung.
Your voices raiſe!
Let all accord
To praiſe the Lord,
The Lord of grace.

8. When [illegible] contagion caſt
The gale of death around,
He turn'd the ſickly blaſt,
And ruddy health we found.
Your voices raiſe!
To Chriſt the Son,
Who crowns his own
With length of days.

9. Has ſorrow w'eigh'd us down,
He gave, when death was near,
A balm for ev'ry wound,
A joy for ev'ry tear.
Your voices raiſe!
To HIM who hears
The wretch's prayers,
Be endleſs praiſe.

10. Let ſolemn organs ſound,
And ſweeter cords compoſe,
Swell the full notes around,
With grateful voices join.
Your voices raiſe!
On every wing,
In tranſport ſing
The Saviour's praiſe.

The Original Broadside of this Hymn is in the Baker Memorial Library of Dartmouth College

VERMONTER ROYALL TYLER AUTHOR OF XMAS HYMN IN 1793

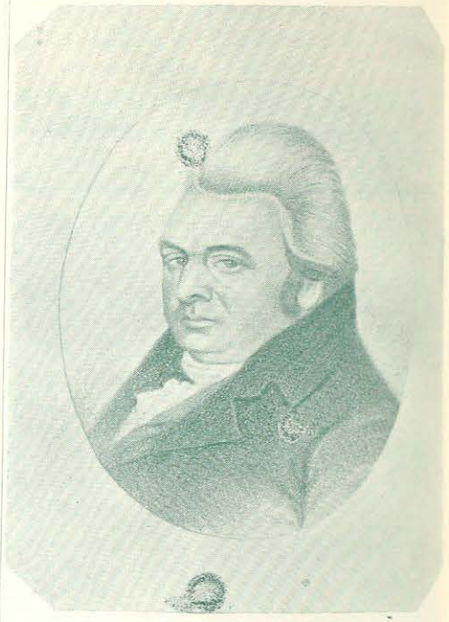
VHS Library Houses His Priceless Collection

Judged as one of the brilliant intellects of his day, Royall Tyler was one of early Vermont's most versatile men. Born in Boston in 1757, of a cultured and prosperous family, Tyler was to be nationally known as a soldier, playwright, poet, and jurist as well as a gentleman of wit and charm who would hobnob with the famous of the country.

It was during his service as a major under General Benjamin Lincoln during Shays' rebellion that Royall Tyler first saw Vermont (he had come to get Shays and some of his hopeful rebels, who had escaped to Vermont, from Governor Chittenden who refused to turn them over). And he liked what he saw. For shortly after the production of his comedy *The Contrast* at the John Street Theatre in New York in 1787, he moved to Guilford (Vt.) to practice law. *The Contrast* was the second play and the *first* comedy written by a native American to be staged professionally. Truly American, it contrasts the simplicity of America and the fashionable extravaganza of Europe. To quote from its Prologue: "Exult, each patriot heart! . . . Why should our thought to distant countries roam when each refinement may be found at home?" It was new and daring and instantly a success. Repeated in various cities throughout the country, its subsequent influence upon would-be dramatists can not be discounted.

While Tyler was practicing law locally in Guilford, then the largest town in the state, he became known nationally as a man of letters. His satirical work of fiction, *The Algerine Captive,* was one of the first American novels to be republished in England (1802). Through the hero of the story, Dr. Updike Underhill, Tyler created the Yankee as a definite class or type in the history of world literature.

Becoming closely identified with the new state, as one of its strongest leaders, Tyler served as State's Attorney, judge of the Supreme Court, and later its Chief Justice, and was conceded to be the state's most capable jurist.



Royall Tyler

Earlier in life, he married Mary Palmer of Framingham and to them were born eleven children. The site of their home is near the Guilford Center Cemetery. Tyler, jurist and author, died in Brattleboro in 1826.

The VHS library was designated as depository of the Royall Tyler collection of manuscripts in the bequest of Helen Tyler Brown, a great grand-daughter, of Brattleboro. The documentary and other materials include notes, data, books, manuscripts, engravings, plates, photostats, photographs, maps, cuts, plaster busts and plaques. It is a rich collection — the only complete and important one of Tyler in existence.

FAMOUS ROUTE OVER LAKE CHAMPLAIN OPENED 100 YEARS AGO

"The Islands" Observe Anniversary of Sand Bar Bridge

Few of us, even those in Vermont, realize that Sand Bar Bridge, connecting the mainland and South Hero, Lake Champlain, is a century old this month. Begun in 1849, this bridge, costing between $25,000 and $30,000, was opened to travel on December 5, 1850.

But we're a bit ahead of our story.

The charter was granted by the general assembly to the Sand Bar Bridge Company on November 3, 1841. (This contradicts Hemenway's *Gazetteer,* v. 2, p. 575. We have taken our information from town clerk's records.) Construction was begun in August, 1849, with Samuel Boardman as contractor. Previous attempts had been made, but travel continued to be by raft and boat, or over the ice. Boardman was committed to build a bridge (strip of land) across the water (over a mile), and this he completed for public crossing in December of 1850. The construction of the gate and toll house was completed on January 23, 1851. Thus were joined, for the first time, the towns of South Hero and Milton. The upkeep of the "bridge" was a trial to the 35 stockholders, and they were forced to put back every cent of the tolls collected to keep it in tolerable repair. Great damage was done each spring, and the stockholders and citizens of the area put many hours of labor into repairs without any remuneration. (In the springs of 1865, '66, and '67, the water covered the bridge from 2 to 4 feet.) Finally, on January 17, 1907, the company voted to convey to the state of Vermont "all of its real estate and appurtenances thereto", which included the bridge, the swamp road, and the buildings.

But this was entirely a private enterprise, and to a handful of men goes the credit for the extension of a strip of land from South Hero, through a mile and more of lake water, two miles of marsh and swamp, across Dead Creek, to meet the Milton highway.

SEARCHING FOR CENTURY OLD FARMS

The Century Farm Program

Where are the Vermont farms that have been in the possession of one family for a hundred years? Initiated and aided by the Hon. Elbert S. Brigham (VHS) and Arthur H. Packard (VHS), president of the Vermont State Farm Bureau, also Governor Harold J. Arthur (VHS), Master of the State Grange, a project was set up and known as the Century Farm Program. It was placed in charge of Guy B. Horton (VHS), but after his sudden death the chairmanship of the committee in charge was given to Director Peach of the Society.

The search is now on for all farms with a hundred year record. One has appeared that has been in the possession of one family for 150 years; and no one knows as yet how many will be discovered.

The awarding of citations to the owners of these farms will be made during the legislative session, beginning in January, at a special ceremony which will be held under Society's auspices. Our members will be notified of the date. The event should be quite a significant one in Vermont history, not only for the occasion itself, but also for the story it will tell.

A STUDY OF THE VERMONT LEASE LAND PROBLEM

A Book of Lasting Value

In the early years of the state, by act of the King's representatives, certain areas in towns were set aside for educational, and religious purposes, and also for the personal benefit of the King's officers. The result, as the many years have gone, has been a confused, scrambled problem of private and public rights which has been a headache to state and town officers, to lawyers, surveyors, and others.

A masterly study of these lease lands, based on ten years of research, by Professor Walter T. Bogart (VHS) of the Department of Political Science of Middlebury College, was published this month by the Society under the title, *The Vermont Lease Lands.* In view of the fact that the publication of the book was made possible by $2000 appropriated by the Legislature of 1949 and by $1000 advanced by the Society, and that the cost of publication and distribution and advertising, etc., is over $3000, the book cannot be given to members as a book dividend. The first sale is limited to members of the bar, judiciary, town clerks, surveyors, and so on. After they have been supplied, or as many of them as wish a copy, the book will be placed on open sale. The cost is $6.16.

Former Director Newton was active in making possible the publication of the book, also the Hon. Asa S. Bloomer (VHS) of Rutland. It will be useful far into the future of the state's history.

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

One More Grandfather Clock Story

I do not know the derivation of this story, but an old beloved university associate of mine in days gone by enjoyed telling it.

The lad was "sparking" with his lassie-love on the front-room sofa. The modern clock in the room said: "Hurry up! Hurry up! Hurry up!" The old grandfather's clock in the hallway gave him this calm, conservative, slow-paced advice: "Take . . . your . . . time! Take . . . your . . time! Take . . .your . . . time!"

Alas and alack, the measure not only of "sparking" but life itself is marked for us in these fast-moving days in which so many of us, I venture to say, do not know where we came from or where we are going — although, of course, the Vermonter usually knows.

A. W. P.

Credit for the striking photograph used in picture of the Atwater Kent Tavern in our last issue should have been given to Herbert Wheaton Congdon (VHS) of Arlington, Vt.

A CHRISTMAS WISH FROM THE VHS STAFF

And for the New Year Too

All of us, our Director, Miss Follette, Mrs. Davidson, Miss Corry, Mr. Hoare, extend to all our members best wishes for this Christmas and many to come. Mr. Pliny Morse, also of the staff, now in Heaton Hospital, Montpelier, Vt., joins with us in this Christmas greeting; and we know he would welcome a word from his many friends among our members.

The new year will be with us before you hear from us again; and we wish to say that all of us are grateful for your interest and your co-operation. Do not hesitate to write us for any information you may think we might supply; small queries about Vermont and its history, personal queries about what may be family histories or old ways of life in the state, larger queries about major controversial issues — any questions in fact will have our attention and prompt answer.

"May your pocketbooks be heavy, and your hearts light!"

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VHS *News and Notes*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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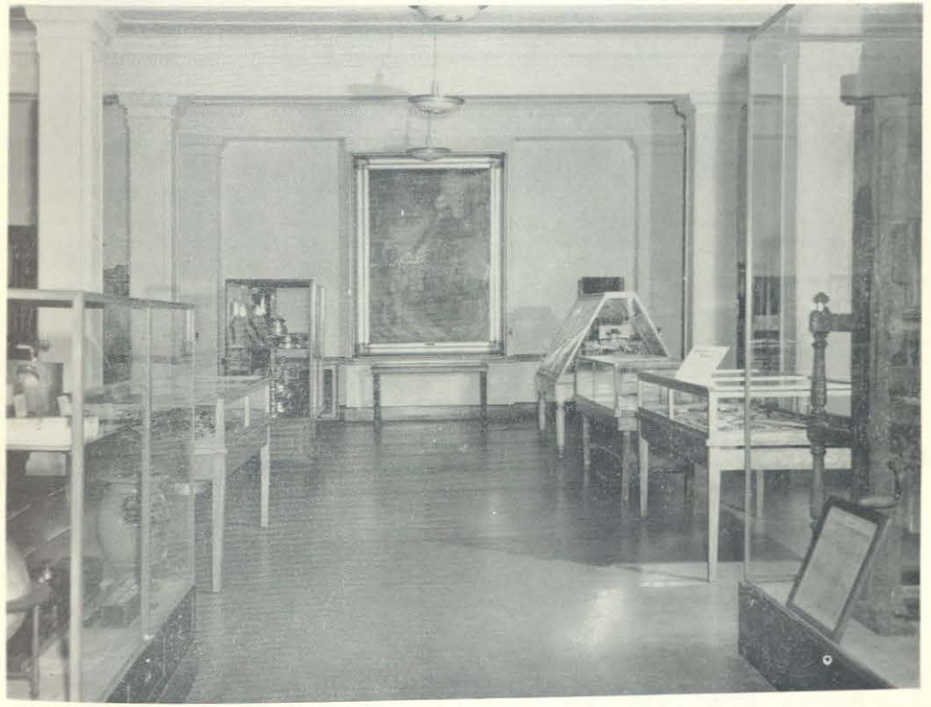

Center Aisle of Museum

AMERICA'S EARLIEST PRESS HEADS SOCIETY'S EXHIBITS

Stephen Daye's Rugged Machine Printed Vermont's First Newspaper

Historical treasures in the State Museum, stemming from the early days of Vermont, are led by the Society's most prized possession, the Stephen Daye Press. This, America's first printing press, wears with quiet dignity the great honors accorded to it. And well it might, for from it came the first printed word in what is now the U. S., "The Freeman's Oath" in 1639, and the *Bay Psalm Book* in 1640. (One of the 11 copies of the latter known to be in existence was sold at auction a very few years ago for $151,000, the highest price ever paid for a rare book in this country.) And in 1781, the Press was used for printing *The Vermont Gazette* or *Green Mountain Post Boy*, the first newspaper published in Vermont.

Even so, the Stephen Daye Press does not monopolize the exhibits of the Society's museum. The two Dewey dioramas give to the onlooker the actual scenes, in three dimensions as through binoculars, of the Battle of Manila in 1898 and Montpelier in the year 1838—memorials to the famed Vermont naval hero, George Dewey. And progressing from the entrance, which the dioramas frame, we may visually trace Vermont's history. There is the tusk of an elephant found in a peat bed in Brattleboro in 1865—the hip bone of an elk from Fletcher (1878)—